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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[ISSUED JULY 23RD, 1867.]

SESSION 1866-67.

Tenth Meeting, April 8th, 1867.

SIR RODERICK L. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in
the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Rev. S. M. Mayhew; E. Story, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*Alexander Beazeley, Esq., C.E.; Michael Beazeley, Esq., C.E.; Colonel R. de Salis, C.B.; James Harvey, Esq.; John Schofield Mayson; John Ramsay, Esq.; Thomas Stephen Whitaker, Esq.; William Henry Wills, Esq., Justice of the Peace for City and County of Bristol.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY SINCE THE LAST MEETING.—‘*Inilah Kitab, Taman-wandji namanja, Jah itu Dikompol oleh J. G. F. Riedel.*’ ‘*Inilah pintu Gerbang pengatahuwan itu oleh J. G. F. Riedel.*’ ‘*De Eedaflagging bij de Tooe-ven-Boela in de Minahasa.*’ *With Plates.* Door J. G. F. Riedel. ‘*De Uitbarsling awoeh-Taverna in 1856,*’ door J. G. F. Riedel. All presented by the Author. ‘*Mauritius, or the Isle of France; being an Account of the Island, its History, Geography, Products and Inhabitants,*’ by the Rev. F. P. Flemyng, M.A., F.R.G.S. Donor, the Author. ‘*Reliquiæ Aquitanicæ; being contributions to the Archæology and Palæontology of Perigord and the adjoining Provinces of Southern France,*’ by Edouard Lartet and Henry Christy. 4th Part.’ Donors, the Executors of the late Henry Christy, Esq. ‘*Die Preussische Expedition nach Ost Asien.*’ Purchased. ‘*The Bahamas, 1864,*’ by Governor Watson. Donor, the Author. ‘*Interoceanic Railroads and Canals.*’ Donor, the U.S. Navy Department. ‘*The Official Gazette of the Institution of Hydronomical and Nautical Engineers.*’ Donor, the Registrar.

ACCESSIONS TO MAP-ROOM.—Africa: Map of Angola, on 2 sheets,
VOL. XI. N

published by the Portuguese Government. Presented by Commodore E. Wilmot, C.B. Five Maps, on 11 sheets, presented by Professor P. Chaix: viz., Map of the Canton of Genève, on 4 sheets, by General H. Dufour. Two maps of the Baltic provinces of Russia; viz., Courland, Livonia, and Esthonia, showing the heights and water-communication, accompanied with three sectional plans, by Dr. Karl Rathlef. Map of Arabia, showing Dr. Palgrave's route, by P. Chaix. Map of the Holy Land, with letter-press. Map showing the various explorations in Smith Sound, from that of Bylot and Baffin in 1616, to Dr. Hayes in 1861. Presented by Dr. Petermann. South America: a map showing the Argentine Railway from Rosario to Cordoba, by L. M. Laberge, C.E.

Before commencing the business of the evening, the PRESIDENT announced that the Council of the Society had drawn up the following Resolutions with regard to Dr. Livingstone:—

"The Council are of opinion that it is highly desirable that a tentative expedition or expeditions should proceed, whether from Zanzibar to the head of Lake Nyassa, or from the Zambesi to that point, with a view to ascertaining the fate of Dr. Livingstone; and that the Expedition Committee be requested to report upon the measures advisable to be adopted."

It was also resolved—

"That the President be requested to communicate this Resolution to Lord Stanley, with the expression of a hope that her Majesty's Government will see fit to adopt such measures as may appear to them most conducive to the end in view, in which not only Geographers, but the public at large, take so deep an interest."

The PRESIDENT further stated that a large number of applications had been received from persons qualified to carry out, or to assist in this expedition, and that the desire was very general to set this question completely at rest. It was due to the character of our great traveller that the Society should not remain satisfied that he had met with his end, solely on the report of men who admitted that they were runaways, and did not stand by their leader.

The PRESIDENT also announced that the Geographical Society of France had awarded their Great Medal to Sir Samuel Baker, and that it would be presented to him at a Meeting on the 12th inst., when it was hoped that any Fellows of the Society who might be in Paris would attend.

CAPTAIN SHERARD OSBORN asked permission to make one or two remarks with reference to Dr. Livingstone. He met Dr. Livingstone at Bombay, when preparing for his expedition, and had some conversation with him on the subject of his journey. The traveller showed great anxiety to obtain men and cattle fit to carry burdens, among others water-buffaloes. Livingstone said his reason for taking the water-buffalo was that he might have a beast of burden that would enable him to accomplish the journey, for his success depended upon having the means of carrying his provisions and gear with him. He was indebted to the Sultan of Zanzibar for the conveyance of the water-buffaloes to Zanzibar from Bombay. He said if these failed him he did not know upon what he could possibly count. The buffaloes were all destroyed, he believed, before he reached the Lake, by the tsetse fly, which Livingstone hoped they might escape. His next resource was to fall back upon the sepoy he took with him from Bombay; and they, too, had failed him. The last information we had of Livingstone came from men who had abandoned

him, and upon whom he depended in his peril. Livingstone's peril consisted in being left without the means of transport; and probably, if not sought for, we should hear of some of his small party being alive hereafter, just as we had heard within the last few days that members of Von der Decken's expedition were alive, twelvemonths after they were reported to have been slain.

The PRESIDENT said the Geographical Society took upon themselves the initiative in the search, but hoped for the assistance of Government, whose bounden duty it was to take a deep interest in the fate of one of their own officers, for Dr. Livingstone had been appointed Her Majesty's Consul to all the independent chiefs in the interior of Africa. With regard to the supposed survivors of the Baron von der Decken's expedition, alluded to by Capt. Osborn, this news was communicated in the following despatch from H.M. Political Agent at Aden:—

“ Aden, Feb. 19, 1867.

“ Mahomed Humal, the interpreter at the police court, who went last spring on leave to his native country, near Berbera, has returned. He reports that he sent four messengers to Nyadhira, in the hope of obtaining good information about the men of the St. Abbs, said to be in captivity among the Gallas. One messenger had died, one was still up the country, but two had returned without being able to get any tidings about the ‘St. Abbs’ people. They had, however, heard that four Europeans, described as one Nakhoda,* and three men, were in confinement among the Droosah. It was said they had been seized from a small iron steamboat in the Waber (Juba), near a mountain pass called ‘Jub-i-dug.’ If there is any truth in this story, these will be a portion of Baron von der Decken's unfortunate expedition. I have sent again to have further inquiries made. The Mijerteyn Sultan, from whom I expected the best and most reliable information, died, I regret to say, last summer. His death stayed for the time inquiries in that direction, but I have requested his successor to cause them to be carried on.”

The following papers were then read:—

- 1.—*On part of Mesopotamia, between Sheriat-el-Beytha, on the Tigris, to Tel Ibrahim.* By Lieutenant J. B. BEWSHER, Surveyor in Mesopotamia.

THE paper consisted of extracts of the official report of Lieutenant Bewsher, and described the various objects of interest, ancient sites, and canals, examined in his portion of the Mesopotamia Survey, which was taken up by Commander Selby and himself in the autumn of 1862.

The ancient canals, as a rule, appear to have had low banks, but raised slightly above the surrounding level. They generally wind considerably, and have ruins on their banks, often lining them for miles. In some places, near large ruins, they appear to have had regularly-built sides. From them irrigants were given off and led over the country in every possible direction. The author gave further details with respect to the Abu Ghurraib, the Nahr Aeesa, the Saklawiyeh, and other of the more important of these ancient canals.

* English master.